

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 280113 TOSEC 110040

FROM ASSISTANT SECRETARY MAYNES

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS: EGEN, UNGA, ECOSOC

SUBJECT:OVERVIEW MECHANISM IN UN

REF: A) USUN 4723; B) STATE 278228; C) ISSUE NO 4 IN
BRIEFING BOOK

REFTEL (A) GIVES CURRENT G-77 DRAFT RESOLUTION ON A UN
OVERVIEW MECHANISM FOR GLOBAL ECONOMIC ISSUES AND
REFTEL (B) GIVES RESULTS OF LATEST US CONSULTATIONS IN
NEW YORK ON THE ISSUE. THE SECRETARY MIGHT WISH TO
USE THE FOLLOWING TALKING POINTS IN HIS MEETINGS WITH
PRESIDENT PEREZ AND OTHER VENEZUELAN OFFICIALS:

1. WHEN YOU VISITED PRESIDENT CARTER EARLIER THIS
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YEAR, YOU PROPOSED THE CONTINUATION OF AN ECONOMIC
DIALOGUE AMONG DEVELOPED AND DEVELOPING COUNTRIES BY
A RESTRICTED BODY OF 30 TO 35 MEMBERS. WE FOUND
THE IDEA ATTRACTIVE.

2. THE G-77 DRAFT RESOLUTION ON AN OVERVIEW BODY
TO CONTINUE THE ECONOMIC DIALOGUE AMONG DEVELOPED

AND DEVELOPING COUNTRIES, HOWEVER, IS UNACCEPTABLE
TO THE UNITED STATES IN TWO RESPECTS:

A) FIRST, IT ESTABLISHES A NEGOTIATING MANDATE FOR
AN OVERVIEW BODY THAT INVITES INTERFERENCE IN ONGOING
NEGOTIATIONS IN SPECIALIZED BODIES, WHICH ARE AUTONOMOUS
BODIES OVER WHICH THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY AND ECOSOC DO NOT
HAVE CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY.

B) SECOND, IT ESTABLISHES A COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
TO MEET BETWEEN GENERAL ASSEMBLY SESSIONS. WE BELIEVE
THAT SUCH A BODY WOULD BE CONDUCTIVE TO POLITICAL
POSTURING AND POLEMICS AND HAS LITTLE CHANCE OF ENGAGING
IN A SERIOUS AND CONSTRUCTIVE DISCUSSION OF ISSUES AND
PROBLEMS AMONG DEVELOPED AND DEVELOPING COUNTRIES.
MOREOVER, THE REAL NEED IS TO CREATE A BODY WHICH WILL
BE AN ATTRACTIVE FORUM FOR SENIOR ECONOMIC POLICY
MEMBERS. A LARGE, UNWIELDY BODY SUCH AS THAT PROPOSED
WOULD NOT MEET THAT CRITERION.

3. THE UNITED STATES BELIEVES IT IS ESSENTIAL THAT
THE MANDATE OF THE COMMITTEE SHOULD FOCUS ON BROAD
ECONOMIC PROBLEMS, THE INTER-RELATIONSHIPS AMONG
PROBLEM AREAS, AND ON IDENTIFYING GAPS AND NEW ISSUES
WHICH NEED ATTENTION.

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4. THE UNITED STATES PREFERS THAT THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY
OR ECOSOC, MEETING IN REGULAR SESSION, SHOULD PERFORM
THE OVERVIEW FUNCTION BUT THAT IT SHOULD BE ASSISTED
IN THIS ROLE BY A SMALL RESTRICTED COMMITTEE THAT COULD
MEET INTERSESSIONALLY TO ENGAGE IN MORE QUIET AND LESS
POLEMICAL CONSULTATIONS ABOUT BROAD ECONOMIC ISSUES
AND PROBLEMS OF CONCERN TO DEVELOPED AND DEVELOPING
COUNTRIES.

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